

Application Number: 10/687,338
Amendment dated: November 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: September 29, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough comprising:
 - A. a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material and adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon, said support member including:
 - (1) an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles thereupon, said upper supporting surface adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow to facilitate protection thereof;
 - (2) a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distance from and below said upper supporting surface and adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon;
 - B. a mounting member affixed to said support member and extending longitudinally therealong, said mounting member being securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of said support member with respect thereto, said mounting member including:
 - (1) a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of said lower supporting surface of said support member into abutment with respect to the substrate;
 - (2) an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below said upper supporting surface of said support member and positioned spaced from and above said lower securement surface, said upper securement surface defining a securement plane positioned spaced below said support plane, said upper securement surface being adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of said mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of said support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate positioned therebeneath, said upper securement surface defining a safety zone means thereabove in the area below said support plane of said upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through said mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon said upper supporting surface; and
 - C. a plurality of securement means capable of being driven into said upper securement surface and through said mounting member into a substrate

therebelow for securing said mounting member thereto and for attaching said support member with respect to the substrate immediately below aid lower supporting surface thereof.

2. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said safety zone means is positioned below said support plane and above said securement plane.
3. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said support plane of said upper supporting surface and said securement plane of said mounting member extend parallel with respect to one another.
4. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said support plane of said upper supporting surface and said securement plane of said mounting member extend generally horizontally and parallel with respect to one another.
5. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said support member and said mounting member are integrally formed with respect to one another.
6. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said support member is formed of a fiberboard material.
7. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 6 wherein said support member and said mounting member are formed integrally from fiberboard material.
8. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said support member and said mounting member are formed integrally from medium density fiberboard material to facilitate machining thereof.
9. (canceled)
10. (currently amended) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 ~~[[9]]~~ wherein said securement means comprise staples.
11. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 10 wherein said staples are smaller than said safety zone means in order to prevent staples partially

embedded into said mounting member through said upper securement surface from extending upwardly through said support plane.

12. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said upper supporting surface extends generally horizontally within said support plane and wherein said upper securement surface extends generally horizontally within said securement plane.
13. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said upper supporting surface extends generally parallel to and above said lower supporting surface.
14. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said upper securement surface extends generally parallel to and above said lower securement surface.
15. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said lower supporting surface and said lower securement surface are coplanar relative to each other.
16. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 1 wherein said support member includes a main body of fiberboard and an upper panel extending over said main body to define said upper supporting surface thereof to facilitate usage thereof supporting of fragile articles thereupon.
17. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 16 wherein said upper panel has a surface coefficient of friction less than the coefficient of friction of the fiberboard of said main body to facilitate control of movement of fragile articles across said upper supporting surface.
18. (original) Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough as defined in Claim 17 wherein said upper panel is made of a plastic material.
19. Means for safely supporting fragile articles being mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough comprising:
 - a. a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient fiberboard material and adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon, said support member including:
 - i. a main body of fiberboard;

- ii. an upper supporting surface positioned on said main body and defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles thereupon, said upper supporting surface³ adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow to facilitate protection thereof;
 - iii. a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distance from and below said upper supporting surface and generally extending parallel with respect thereto, said lower supporting surface adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon;
 - iv. an upper panel of plastic material extending over said main body to define said upper supporting surface thereof to facilitate moving and supporting of fragile articles positioned thereupon;
- b. a mounting member of fiberboard integrally formed with said support member and extending longitudinally therealong, said mounting member being securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of said support member with respect thereto, said mounting member including:
 - i. a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of said lower supporting surface of said support member into abutment with respect to the substrate;
 - ii. an upper securement surface extending generally horizontally and located at a position laterally adjacent and below said upper supporting surface of said support member and positioned spaced from and above said lower securement surface, said upper securement surface defining a securement plane extending generally horizontally positioned spaced below said support plane and extending parallel with respect to said support plane of said upper supporting surface, said upper securement surface extending generally parallel to and above said lower securement surface, said lower supporting surface and said lower securement surface being coplanar to one another, said upper securement surface being adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of said mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of said support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate positioned therebeneath, said upper securement surface defining a safety zone means thereabove in the area below said support plane of said upper supporting surface to prevent contact between any securement devices extending therethrough and any of the fragile articles positioned upon said upper supporting surface, said safety zone means being positioned below said support plane and above said securement plane; and
- c. a plurality of securement means capable of being driven into said upper securement surface and through said mounting member into a substrate therebelow for securing said mounting member thereto and for attaching said support member with respect to the substrate immediately below aid lower supporting surface thereof.

20. (Canceled)

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Amendments to the Drawings:

None